

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art. Claims 1-4, 7-17, and 19-29 are now in this application.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 30, 32, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,028,837 ("Miller") in view of IEEE Standard 802.3, 1998. Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Miller in view of IEEE Standard 802.3, 1998 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,227 ("Keller et al.") Claims 5 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of IEEE Standard 802.3, 1998 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,642 ("Camilleri et al.") Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,970,069 ("Kumar et al.") in view of Camilleri et al. Claims 6-16 and 18-29 were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in any combination thereof, disclose or suggest at least the claimed features of the present invention as claimed. Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to include the features of dependent claims 6 and 18, respectively. Therefore, claims 1 and 17 and all the claims depending

thereon are now allowable. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to pursue the original claims in this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Rob Anderson at (815) 885-2389.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gregory D. Caldwell  
Reg. No. 39,926  
(503) 439-8778

Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman

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